(d) The disinvestment plan for both Air India and Indian Airlines is in recognition of the need of operating the two airlines on commercial principles with competitive spirit so that they can thrive in an intensely competitive environment.

Air service from Muzaffarpur

†1965. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start air service from Patahi airport, Muzaffarpur in Bihar or whether any proposal in this regard is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Airline Operators are, however, free to operate on any sector depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Improvement in catering on board IA

†1966. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to streamline and improve the quality of system of providing information with regard to quality of edible items, adherence of time schedule and flights in their airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to upgrade and add value to its product and services. Various steps have been taken by Indian Airlines to improve the quality of food served, on time performance and flight information dissemination system.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.